

From: Rory Ivers
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/7/01 8:54pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

I wish to voice my extreme displeasure with the poor standard that too many government representatives consider to be an acceptable² settlement of the Microsoft case.

This proposed settlement is on par with the United States taking over Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean island countries by any available means. Then, facing world condemnation for our ruthlessness, we set Cuba free. Far too little, too late, with nothing to stop us from taking Cuba and the rest of the Western Hemisphere the next time we want to grab territory.

Certainly this is a ridiculous scenario, but in the computer world, this is exactly what our government is considering. To even consider allowing Microsoft to manipulate such a settlement, you are sending a message to them that the government really doesn't care about the behavior that caused this issue. Just tell them, 'Don't do it again or we'll have to do something mean like ground you for a week.'² Not terribly effective at preventing a recurrence.

Do what you should, not what is politically expedient! Resolve the damages, then demonstrate with punitive measures exactly why businesses should NEVER engage in such practices. It worked with ATT decades ago, and it would work with Microsoft. ATT's breakup did not just level the communications playing field. It created an atmosphere that encouraged competition, invention and expansion of the industry far beyond what would likely have happened had other gutless politicians and lawyers behaved to the lower standard this current administration is considering. (BTW, I am a Republican and do use Microsoft products.)

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